

Washington, D. C.

Reb Considine-6:15 P.M.

CONSIDINE: "The first notice I had that we would seriously consider ransoming those Cuban prisoners of Castro by means of tractors and bulldozers came from all people--Allen Dulles. I happened to be in our CIA Director's office in Washington the day after Castro made his proposition in a TV speech in Havana. Mr. Dulles mentioned casually that he had just asked an aide to look up the cost of such equipment. Well, it has certainly since then become topic A when two or more Americans gather. At first the White House said the President had no connection whatsoever with the appointment of Mrs. Spoorvold, Dr. Milton Eisenhower and Walter Reuther, as a civilian committee to raise the needed millions of dollars. And in a turnabout, the White House said that Mr. Kennedy was in full sympathy with the deal and urged all Americans to contribute to it...

"Well, the CIA has come in for a lot of knocks since the U-2 and Cuban disasters, but our intelligence is a heck of a sight better today than it used to be. I've been looking over a book named 'Central Intelligence and National Security' by Harry Howell Hanson, and some of our oversights at the time of Pearl Harbor for example, are just hard to believe. A Navy sub actually sank a Japanese submarine in Pearl Harbor hours before the raid. An Army Air Force sounding device picked up the sound of the enemy's approaching planes in plenty of time to alert our own Air Force. In Washington we had broken the Japanese naval code and knew the fleet was at sea, but nobody told the commanders at Pearl Harbor. It seems as if Washington guarded its secret of the broken code so jealously that the policy was not to let anybody outside of Washington know about it, not even our own people. Huffy, isn't it? Couldn't happen today of course, but that can be only cold comfort to those who there gave their lives."